

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /077 W

----- 122613

P 220930Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2031

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 6682

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR JA US ENRG

SUBJECT: PRESS RPTORTS FONMIN OHIRA CALL ON DEPSEC RUSH

1. ALL EVENING PAPERS MAY 21 REPORTED FONMIN OHIRA CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH. FONMIN TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH FOLLOWED THAT PRINCIPALS EXCHANGED VIEWS ON BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING MID-EAST, US AND EUROPE, CHINA, KOREA, INDOCHINA, SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY, WITH MOST TIME DEVOTED TO LATTER. FONMIN OHIRA EXPLAINED THAT US-JAPAN RELATIONS WERE NOT DISCUSSED QTE BECAUSE THERE ARE NO ISSUES PSNDING AT PRESENT UNQTE.

2. ON ENERGY, FONMIN OHIRA TOLD PRESS THAT HE STATED JAPANESE DESIRE FOR BRMAD US PARTICIPATION IN PRACTICAL SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, BUT DID NOT REQUEST COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR DISCUSS THOSE WHICH JAPAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE ON OWN. FONMIN SAID THAT US RESPONSE OFFERED SCANT BASIS FOR OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR US

EXIMBANK FINANCING OF SIBERIAN PROJECTS. MOST ARTICLES REPORTED THAT DEPSEC RUSH LIMITED RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION THAT US AND JAPAN CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT.

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3. FONMIN TOLD PRESS THAT US SIDE EXPRESSED GUARDED

OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN MID-EAST OIL SITUATION, INCLUDING PRICE AND SUPPLY, PROVIDED CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS SUCCEED. HOWEVER, US SIDE REPORTEDLY HAD NO FEELING ABOUT POSSIBLE TIMING OF CONFERENCE WITH OIL PRODUCING NATIONS ON WHICH COORDINATING TALKS PROCEEDING AS AGREED IN FEBRUARY EAG MEETING.

4. ON CHINA, FONMIN OHIRA TOLD PRESS THAT HE INFORMED US SIDE THAT THERE NO CHANGE IN GOJ DESIRE TO MAINTAIN EXISTING RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, AND THAT GOJ HOPES TO RESTORE CIVAIR TIES WITH TAIWAN QTE SOMEDAY UNQTE. (IN EXPLANATORY ASIDE TO PRESS, FONMIN OHIRA CAUTIONED THAT THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC PROSPECTS FOR RESTORATION AT PRESENT.) FONMIN GAVE VIEW THAT US SIDE DOES NOT SEE SUSPENSION OF CIVAIR ROUTE AS SERIOUS PROBLEM, AND EXPRESSED NO CONCERN ABOUT JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. FONMIN ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT REQUEST US HELP TO RESTORE CIVAIR LINK, NOR DID US SIDE OFFER TO PROVIDE ANY.

FONMIN SAID THAT DEPSEC RUSH CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS NO CHANGE IN US CHINA POLICY. SOME ARTICLES COMMENTED THAT JAPANESE SIDE WONDDRED WHY US SIDE ONLY EXPRESSED HANDS-OFF POLICY OF NEUTRALITY ON CIVAIR QUESTION, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO IMPACT ON OVERAGL ASIA POLICY OR REGIONAL SECURITY.

5. FONMIN OHIRA SAID THAT US SIDE GAVE ASSURANCE THAT ITS EUROPEAN POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED, DESPITE RECENT CHANGES IN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

6. FONMIN OHIRA SAID THAT HE CONFIRMED TO US SIDE NEED FOR FULL CONSULZATIONS ABOUT KOREA IN ADVANCE OF UNGA THIS FALL, BUT DID NOT RAISE ISSUE OF KIM DAE-JUNG OR TWO JAPANESE STUDENTS UNDER ARREST IN ROK.

7. FONMIN OHIRA ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT US SIDE TOLD HIM EARLY SENATE APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR HODGSON WAS EXPECTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ENERGY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO06682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740127-0674
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740525/aaaaavwb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS RFPOR TS FONMIN OHIRA CALL ON DEPSEC RUSH
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, JA, US, (RUSH, KENNETH), (OHIRA, MASAYOSHI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005